



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/709,567	05/14/2004	Wen-Way Chen	ACMP0072USA	3566
27765	7590	03/12/2007		
NORTH AMERICA INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY CORPORATION			EXAMINER	
P.O. BOX 506			LEE, PING	
MERRIFIELD, VA 22116				
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2615	

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	03/12/2007	ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Notice of this Office communication was sent electronically on the above-indicated "Notification Date" and has a shortened statutory period for reply of 3 MONTHS from 03/12/2007.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

winstonhsu.uspto@gmail.com
Patent.admin.uspto.Rcv@naipo.com
mis.ap.uspto@naipo.com.tw

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/709,567

Applicant(s)

CHEN, WEN-WAY

Examiner

Ping Lee

Art Unit

2615

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 June 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35-U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

1. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claim 9 specifies an apparatus for performing a process. A claim cannot claim a process and a machine.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1, 3, 7, 9, 10, 15, 17 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Sakanashi (US 6,954,652).

Regarding claims 1, 3, 9, 10 and 18, Sakanashi discloses a method and a correspond apparatus of processing sound signals in a communication device, the communication device comprising a sound receiving unit, a storage unit, an processing unit, and a transceiving unit, the method comprising:

(a) receiving a first sound signal by using the sound receiving unit (4);

(b) processing the first sound signal and a second sound signal stored in the storage unit (11) by using the processing unit (19a); and

(c) sending the processed first sound signal and the processed second sound signal to the transceiving unit (3), so that a listener is capable of simultaneously listening the processed first sound signal and the processed second sound signal.

Regarding claims 7 and 15, the claimed sound receiving unit reads on 2, the processing unit reads on 19b, and the sound-outputting unit reads on 5.

Regarding claim 17, Sakanashi shows the control interface (6).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 8 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sakanashi in view of Yoshimura (US 7,076,052).

Regarding claims 8 and 16, Sakanashi fails to show amplifier. However, it was well known in the art that an amplifier is required to set the signal to proper level for the speaker. Yoshimura teaches such well known amplifier (41) in Fig. 3. Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Sakanashi in view of Yoshimura by utilizing an amplifier in order to generate the signal to drive the speaker.

Art Unit: 2615

6. Claims 2, 4-6 and 11-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sakanashi in view of Kanamori et al (hereafter Kanamori) (US 6,662,022).

Regarding claims 2, 4, 11 and 14, Sakanashi suggests to have a variable mixing ratio between the voice and the music (col. 9, lines 54-55). However, Sakanashi fails to show the detail layout on how to implement this variable mixing ratio. Kanamori, on the other hand, teaches, in Fig. 2, the detail layout of the first volume controller for the voice signal, the second volume controller for the music signal and the mixer. Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Sakanashi by implementing the first and second volume controllers as taught in Kanamori in order to adjust the mixing ratio according to a control signal.

Regarding claims 5 and 12, Kanamori clearly teaches an ADC.

Regarding claims 6 and 13, Kanamori teaches that the ADC is located before the first volume controller, but fails to show that the ADC is electrically connected between the processing unit and the first volume controller. However, one skilled in the art would have expected the similar result regardless whether performing the volume control before the conversion (by ADC) or after the conversion. Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Sakanashi in view of Kanamori by performing ADC after the volume control because it was considered as a matter of engineering design choice to rearrange the processing to obtain the similar result.

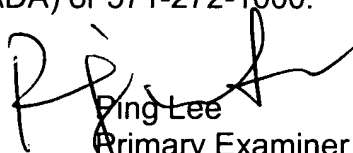
Art Unit: 2615

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ping Lee whose telephone number is 571-272-7522.

The examiner can normally be reached on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vivian C. Chin can be reached on 571-272-7848. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


Ping Lee
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2615

pwl